1		2
3.	Haryana	12.9183
4.	Madhya Pradesh	28.23
5.	Punjab	20.27
6.	Rajasthan .	35. 692
7.	Tripura	9.416
8.	Uttar Pradesh .	49.7875
9.	West Bengal	3.73

Economic criteria

728. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is currently hearing the matter relation to the reservations for the specially and educationally backward sections, as well as for the 'other economically backward' sections not covered by any reservation scheme ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has asked Government to define the 'Economic Criteria';

(c) whether Government have supplied the information asked for by the Supreme Court ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same '.'

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Prime Minister had written on 29-10-91 to the Chief Ministers of States/Governors/Lt. Governors, seeking their view on the economic criteria which should be adopted for providing preference to the poorer sections amongst the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and other economically Backward Sections of People who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation, while implementing the policy of reservation in civil services and posts under the Government of india to be filled through direct recruitment.

The Supreme Court was informed on 31-10-91, that on receipt of the views of the State Governments/UT Administrations it was proposed to convene a conference of Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors to discuss the issues further.

Government also propose to hold consultations with leaders of political parties. The Court was further informed that after undertaking these consultations and evolving, if possible, a national consensus on this subject Government would take a final dicision on the economic criteria referred to in the office memorandum of 25-9-91 pertaining to the subject.

Government had hoped to take a final decision in this regard by 26-1-92. However, it has not been possible to adhere to this time schedule because a number of replies are still awaited to the Prime Minister's letter of 29-10-91 in spite of several reminders issued to the defaulting State Governments.

On this important issue it is desirable to proceed with caution and after due deliberation, taking into account the views expressed by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Accordingly, the matter is being pursued with the State Governments vigorously. It will be government's endeavour to evolve, if possible, a national consensus on the subject so as to promote social justice in an atmosphere of social harmony and peace.

Reservation for Physically-Handicapped in Union Territories

729. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make the implementation of reservation for the physically-handicapped in Delhi and other Union Territories, a time-bound programme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons there-far ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) 3 % of the vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped— 1% each of the visual, hearing and ortho-paedically handicapped in Group 'C' and ana 'D' civil posts under the Central Government. The Government of India has carried out Special Recruitment Drives during 1987,1988 & 1990 to fill up the backlog of reserved vacancies for the visually handicapped and hearing handicapped in Group 'C' & *D* posts in Ministries/Departments. Public Undertakings and Banks, etc. The process of Slling up of these posts is continuing. The Administrations of the Union Territories including that of Delhi are aware of their responsibilities to- implement such reservation.